Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 16 through 18, and 35 have been amended, and claims 49 through 51 have been added herein. Please note that all claims currently pending and under consideration in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A stable non-aqueous single-phase biocompatible viscous vehicle, comprising:
a polymer consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone;
a surfactant consisting of glycerol monolaurate; and
a solvent consisting of lauryl lactate;
wherein the viscosity of the vehicle is between about 1,000 and about 10,000,000 poise.

11. (Previously Presented) A stable non-aqueous single-phase biocompatible viscous vehicle, comprising:
a polymer consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone;
a surfactant consisting of polysorbate; and
a solvent consisting of lauryl lactate;
wherein the viscosity of the vehicle is between about 1,000 and about 10,000,000 poise.

12-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A non-aqueous formulation comprising at least one beneficial agent uniformly suspended in a non-aqueous single-phase biocompatible viscous vehicle, the non-aqueous single-phase biocompatible viscous vehicle comprising:

a polymer consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone;
a surfactant consisting of glycerol monolaurate or polysorbate; and
a solvent consisting of lauryl lactate.

16. (Currently amended) A stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation that is capable of being uniformly dispensed over an extended period of time at a low flow rate and is stable at body temperature for extended periods of time, the stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation comprising:
a) at least one ~~beneficial agent~~ protein; and
b) a non-aqueous single-phase biocompatible viscous vehicle comprising a polymer consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, a surfactant consisting of glycerol monolaurate or polysorbate, and a solvent consisting of lauryl lactate.

17. (Currently amended) The stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation of claim 16, wherein the at least one ~~beneficial agent~~ protein is present in an amount of at least about 0.1% (w/w).

18. (Currently amended) The stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation of claim 16, wherein the at least one ~~beneficial agent~~ protein is present in an amount of at least about 10% (w/w).

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The formulation of claim 16, wherein the stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation is capable of being uniformly dispensed over an extended period of time at a low flow rate and is stable at 65° C for at least about 2 months.

22. (Previously Presented) The formulation of claim 16, wherein the stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation is capable of being uniformly dispensed over an extended

period of time at a low flow rate and is stable at 37° C for at least about 3 months.

23. (Previously Presented) The formulation of claim 16, wherein the viscosity of the vehicle is between about 1,000 and about 10,000,000 poise.

24-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The formulation of claim 16, wherein the beneficial agent is dried to a low moisture content prior to incorporation in the stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing a stable non-aqueous single-phase biocompatible viscous vehicle, the method comprising:

(1) selecting a polymer consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, a surfactant consisting of glycerol monolaurate or polysorbate, and a solvent consisting of lauryl lactate;

(2) blending the polymer, the surfactant, and the solvent at elevated temperature under dry conditions to allow the polymer, the surfactant, and the solvent to liquefy; and

(3) allowing the liquefied components to cool to room temperature such that a stable non-aqueous single-phase biocompatible viscous vehicle is formed.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the viscosity of the vehicle is between about 1,000 and about 10,000,000 poise.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one beneficial agent is present in an amount of at least about 0.1% (w/w).

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the at least one

beneficial agent is present in an amount of at least about 10% (w/w).

33-34. (Canceled)

35. (Currently amended) A method for treating a subject suffering from a condition which may be alleviated by administration of a beneficial agent, the method comprising:

providing a stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation capable of being uniformly dispensed over an extended period of time at a low flow rate, the stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation ~~comprising the beneficial agent~~ and a non-aqueous single-phase biocompatible viscous vehicle comprising a polymer consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, a surfactant consisting of glycerol monolaurate or polysorbate, and a solvent consisting of lauryl lactate; and

administering the stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation to a subject, wherein the administering is long-term and continuous.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein administering comprises use of an implantable drug delivery system

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein administering comprises daily administration of the stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation and continues for a period selected from the group consisting of about 3 months, about 6 months, and about 12 months.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein administering comprises administering the stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation daily for a period selected from the group consisting of about 3 months, about 6 months, and about 12 months.

39-45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The formulation of claim 15, wherein the viscosity of the vehicle is between about 1,000 and about 10,000,000 poise, which formulation can be delivered from an implantable drug delivery system such that the exit shear rate of the formulation is between about 1 and 1 x 10^{-7} reciprocal second.

47. (Previously Presented) The formulation of claim 16, wherein the viscosity of the vehicle is between about 1,000 and about 10,000,000 poise.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein administering comprises parenterally administering the therapeutically effective amount of a stable non-aqueous viscous protein formulation.

49. (New) The formulation of claim 10, wherein the ratios of the components are in the range of about 30% to about 50% for solvent, about 5% to about 20% for surfactant, and about 5% to about 60% for polymer.

50. (New) The formulation of claim 11, wherein the ratios of the components are in the range of about 30% to about 50% for solvent, about 5% to about 20% for surfactant, and about 5% to about 60% for polymer.

51. (New) The formulation of claim 15, wherein the ratios of the components are in the range of about 30% to about 50% for solvent, about 5% to about 20% for surfactant, and about 5% to about 60% for polymer.